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(56) Documents Cited

GB 2052919 A EP 0599250 A2 US 5400414 A
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(58) Field of Search

UK CL (Edition R) H4J JCE
INT CL⁷ B06B 1/06, H04R 17/00

(54) Abstract Title

Transparent piezoelectric speaker in a display device

(57) A clear piezoelectric speaker, comprising a transparent electrode sandwiched between two transparent piezoelectric films. A method of vacuum etching or photo etching is used to produce a patterned electrode. This method can lead to a large installation area to a display device such as LCD and CRT displays. The main embodiment is the placing of the transparent speaker in the display of a mobile telephone, the speaker is placed between the LCD transparent member 2 and the LCD10.

FIG.1

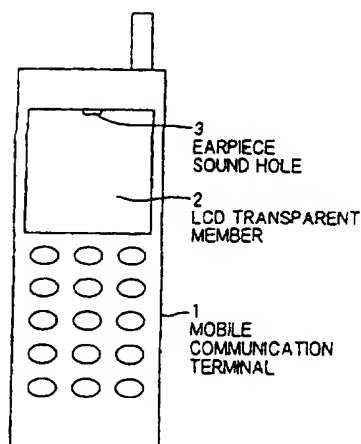
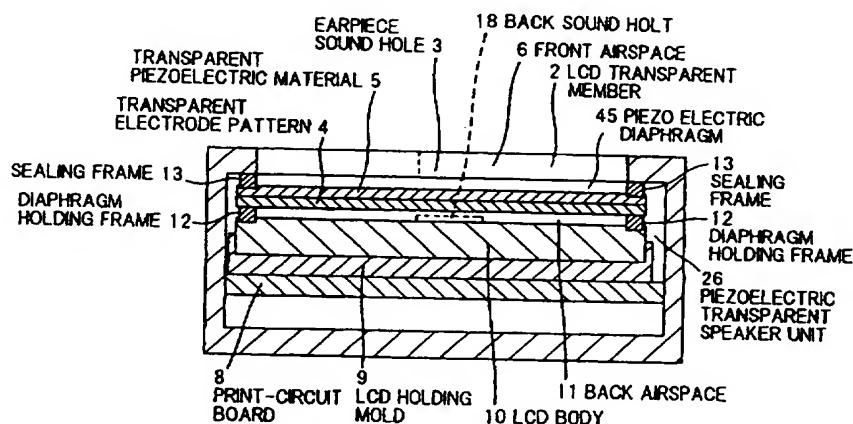


FIG.2



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FIG. 1

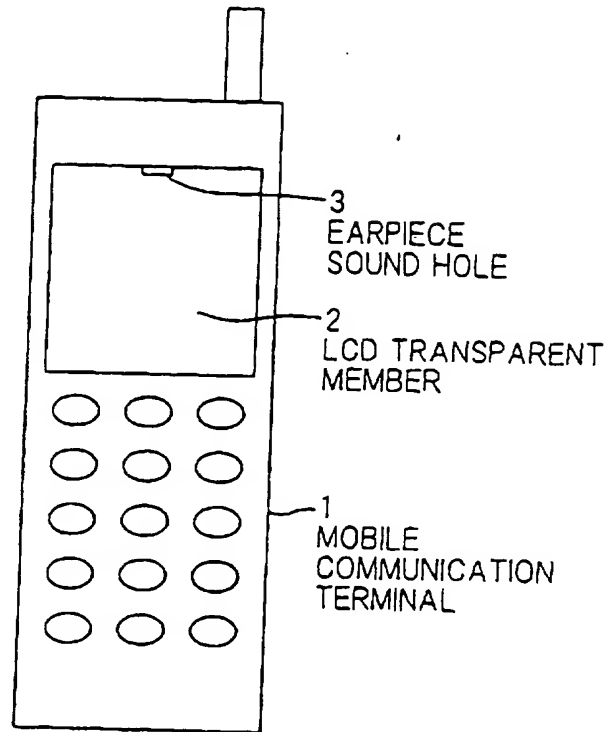


FIG. 2

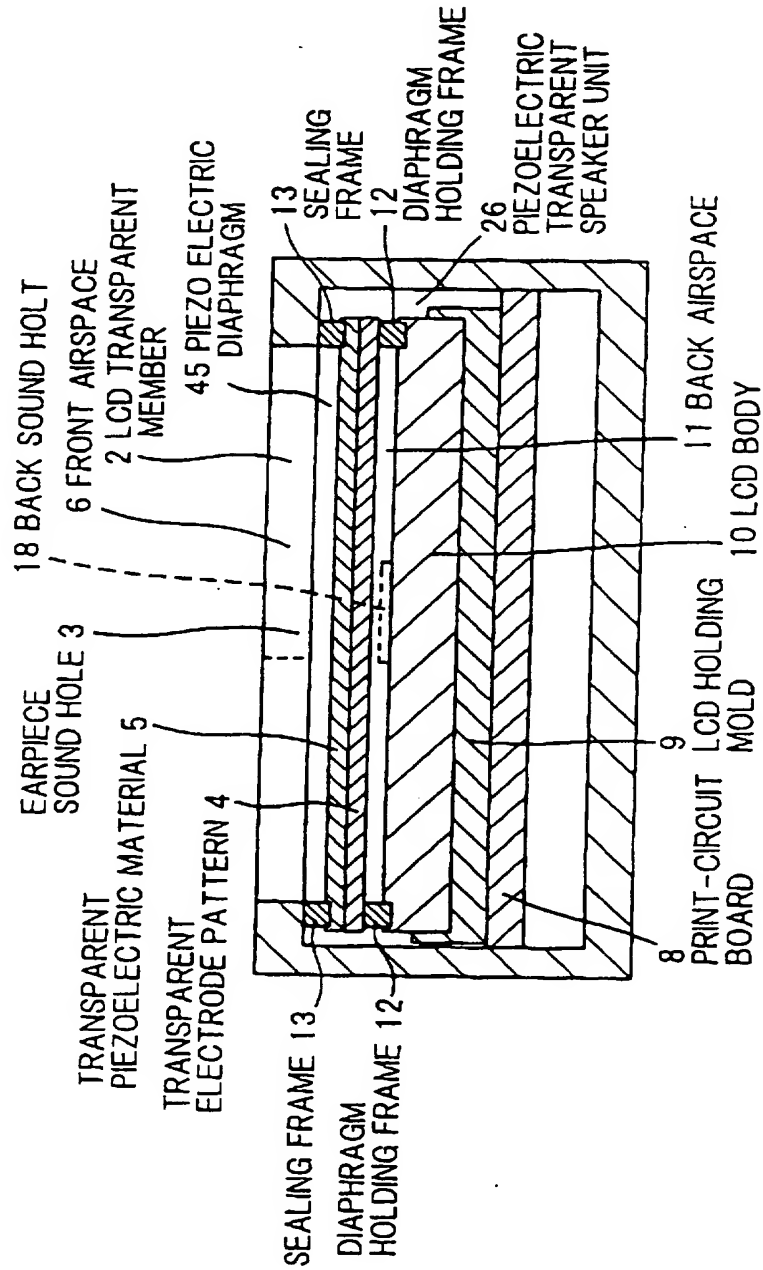


FIG. 3

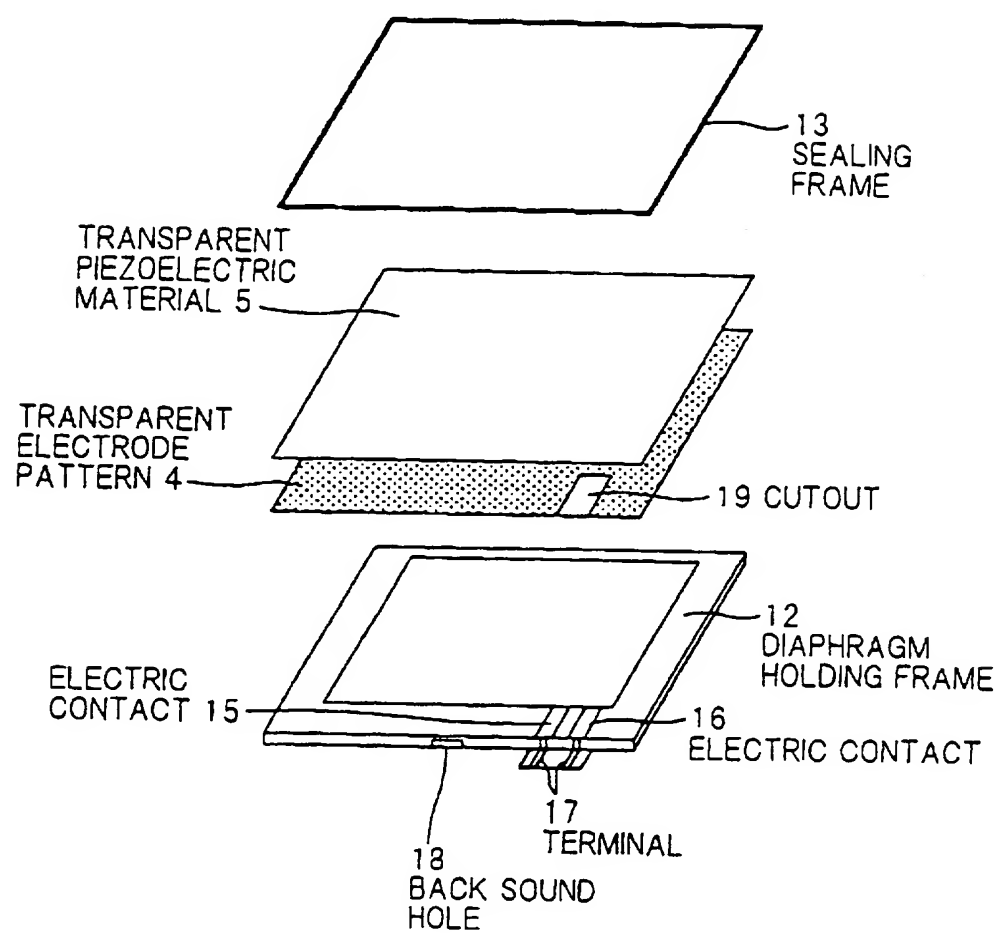


FIG. 4

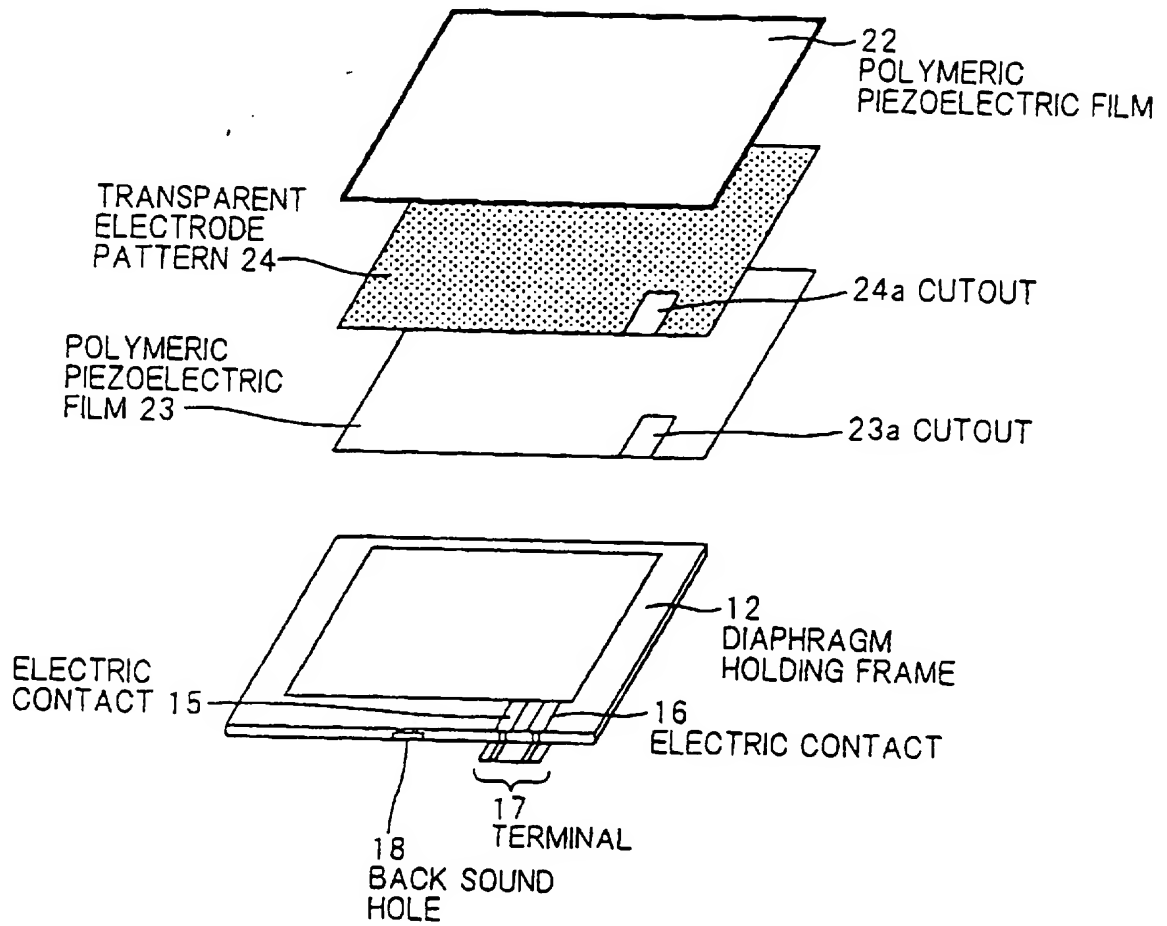
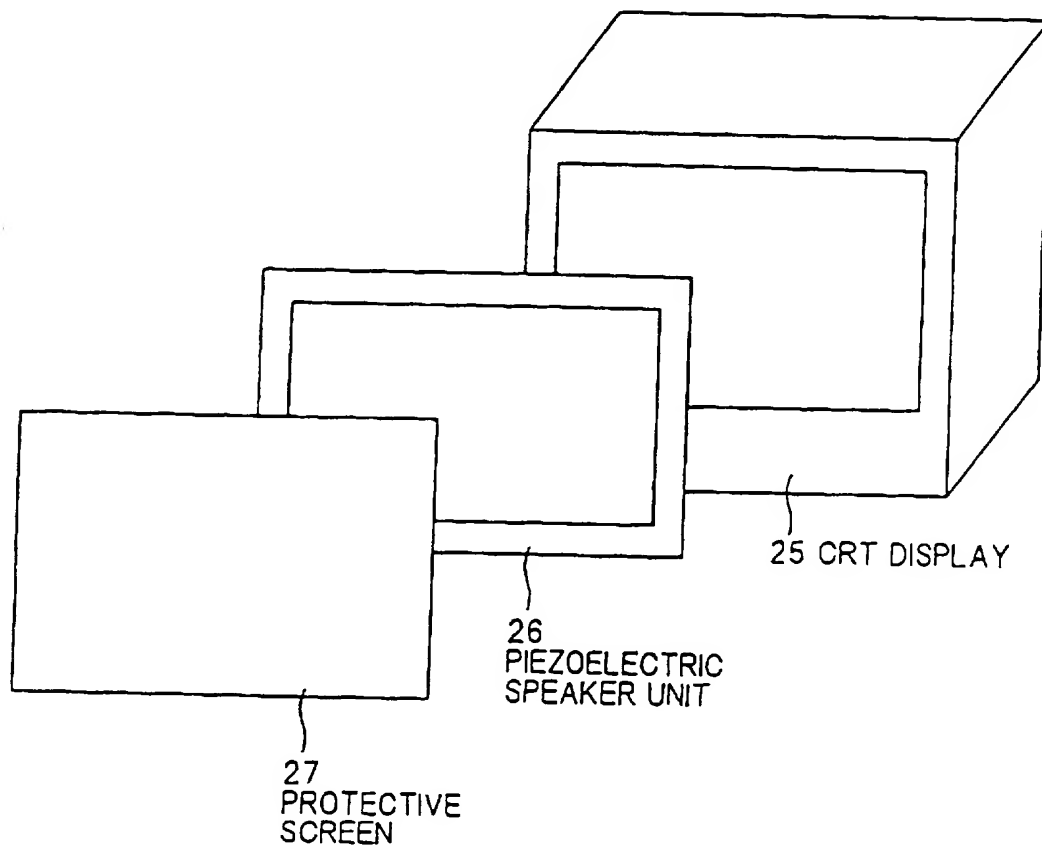


FIG. 5



PIEZOELECTRIC DIAPHRAGM AND PIEZOELECTRIC SPEAKER

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to a piezoelectric diaphragm and a
5 piezoelectric speaker to be used for a portable electronic device,
such as a mobile communication terminal.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Conventionally, receivers or speakers used in portable
10 electronic devices are typically of dynamic type or piezoelectric
type. In recent years, especially for mobile telephone terminals,
a large-area LCD (liquid crystal display) to display information such
as image etc. has been desired increasingly.

With such enlargement of LCD area, a reduction in the area of
15 a diaphragm for a receiver or speaker has been required. However,
if the area of diaphragm is reduced to give a large-area LCD, the
efficiency of electrical-acoustical conversion reduces and
therefore the sound pressure reduces.

Japanese patent application laid-open No.4-70100 (1992)
20 discloses a piezoelectric transparent speaker that can be made
lighter and thinner than a dynamic type speaker and is provided with
a transparent diaphragm, which can expand the range of use.

However, in case of a bimorph that piezoelectric ceramic for
piezoelectric speaker is attached to both sides of a metallic
25 diaphragm, the manufacturing cost increases since lead wires for
electrode need to be led out from the two sides.

Also, in case of the transparent piezoelectric diaphragm that
is attached to the front face of a display device such as a LCD etc.,
the manufacturing cost increases since lead wires for electrode also
30 have to be formed with transparent conductive material.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, it is an object of the invention to provide a piezoelectric diaphragm and a piezoelectric speaker that can lend
5 a large installation area to a display device, such as LCD and CRT display, in a portable electronic device.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a portable electronic device that is equipped with a speaker and a display that can have a large installation area commonly.

10 According to the invention, a piezoelectric diaphragm, comprises:

a transparent piezoelectric member and a transparent electrode.

According to another aspect of the invention, a piezoelectric diaphragm, comprises:

15 a first transparent piezoelectric film;
a transparent electrode; and
a second transparent piezoelectric film;

wherein the piezoelectric diaphragm has a lamination structure in which the first transparent piezoelectric film, the transparent
20 electrode and the second transparent piezoelectric film are laminated.

According to another aspect of the invention, a piezoelectric speaker, comprises:

a piezoelectric diaphragm which is composed of a transparent
25 piezoelectric member and a transparent electrode;

a first frame which holds the fringe of the piezoelectric diaphragm on the side of transparent electrode; and

a second frame which holds the fringe of the piezoelectric diaphragm on the side of transparent piezoelectric member;

30 wherein the first and second frames are installed so that an

image to be displayed by a display means is seen through transparent parts inside the first and second frames.

According to another aspect of the invention, a piezoelectric speaker, comprises:

5 a piezoelectric diaphragm which has a lamination structure in which a first transparent piezoelectric film, a transparent electrode and a second transparent piezoelectric film;

a first frame which holds the fringe of the piezoelectric diaphragm on the side of the first transparent piezoelectric film
10 of the piezoelectric diaphragm; and

a second frame which holds the fringe of the piezoelectric diaphragm on the side of the second transparent piezoelectric film of the piezoelectric diaphragm;

wherein the first and second frames are installed so that an
15 image to be displayed by a display means is seen through transparent parts inside the first and second frames.

According to another aspect of the invention, a portable electronic device, comprises:

a display means to display an image; and
20 a piezoelectric speaker composed of a transparent piezoelectric member and a transparent electrode;

wherein the piezoelectric speaker is disposed in front of the display means.

25 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will be explained in more detail in conjunction with the appended drawings, wherein:

FIG.1 is a front view showing a portable electronic device in which a piezoelectric speaker in a first preferred embodiment
30 according to the invention is installed,

FIG.2 is a cross sectional view showing the detailed composition of a piezoelectric transparent speaker unit 26 in the mobile communication terminal 1 in FIG.1,

FIG.3 is a broken perspective view showing the piezoelectric transparent speaker unit 26 in FIG.2,

FIG.4 is a broken perspective view showing the detailed composition of a piezoelectric diaphragm in a second preferred embodiment according to the invention, and

FIG.5 is an illustration showing an application of this invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

A. First Embodiment

A first preferred embodiment of the invention is explained below, referring to FIG.1. FIG.1 is a front view showing a portable electronic device to which a piezoelectric speaker according to the invention is applied. This portable electronic device is a mobile communication terminal such as a portable telephone etc. In the mobile communication terminal 1, a piezoelectric polymer acoustic transducer is installed.

2 on the front surface of the mobile communication terminal 1 is a LCD transparent member that is provided with an earpiece sound hole 3.

A piezoelectric transparent speaker unit 26, which is described later, is disposed behind the LCD transparent member 2, and emits sound from the earpiece sound hole 3.

FIG.2 is a cross sectional view showing the detailed composition of the piezoelectric transparent speaker unit 26 built in the above mobile communication terminal 1. Also, FIG.3 is a broken perspective view showing the piezoelectric transparent speaker unit 26.

Inside the mobile communication terminal 1, a LCD body (display means) 10 is fixed onto a print-circuit board 8 through a LCD holding mold 9.

5 A piezoelectric diaphragm 45 that is composed of a transparent electrode pattern (transparent electrode) 4 and a transparent piezoelectric material (transparent piezoelectric member) 5 is fixed onto (the front face of) the LCD body 10 through a diaphragm holding frame (first frame) 12, and is fixed facing to the LCD transparent member 2 of the mobile communication terminal 1 through a sealing frame (second frame) 13.

Thus, a back airspace 11 sealed by the diaphragm holding frame 12 is formed on the back side of the piezoelectric diaphragm 45, and a front airspace 6 sealed by the sealing frame 13 is formed on the front side of the piezoelectric diaphragm 45.

15 A back sound hole 18 is a hole to control the internal pressure of the back airspace 11, and is formed between a groove formed on the diaphragm holding frame 12 and the LCD body 10 when the diaphragm holding frame 12 and the LCD body 10 contact each other.

20 The transparent electrode pattern 4 is formed on the transparent piezoelectric material 5, and an electric contact 15 is connected to the transparent electrode pattern 4. Also, an electric contact 16 is formed corresponding to the position of a cutout 19, thereby connected to the transparent piezoelectric material 5.

25 Meanwhile, a terminal 17 is provided to lead out the electric contacts 15 and 16 to the outside.

30 Voltage applied to the terminal 17 is fed to the transparent electrode pattern 4 or the transparent piezoelectric material 5 through the electric contact 15 or 16, thereby a voltage difference occurs between the transparent electrode pattern 4 and the transparent piezoelectric material 5.

Hereupon, by the bending movement of the piezoelectric diaphragm 45 composed of the transparent electrode pattern 4 and the transparent piezoelectric material 5, sound waves are emitted from the earpiece sound hole 3.

5 As the transparent piezoelectric material 5 in FIGS.2 and 3, for example, transparent piezoelectric ceramic or polymeric piezoelectric film is used. The transparent electrode pattern 4 is of transparent conductive film such as ITO etc.

10 When using polymeric piezoelectric film as the transparent piezoelectric material 5, it is easier thinned than piezoelectric ceramic and has a density lower than piezoelectric ceramic. Therefore, polymeric piezoelectric film is a material suitable for weight saving and thinning.

15 Also, polymeric piezoelectric film does not have mechanical brittleness as exhibited in ceramics, and therefore it has a more suitable diaphragm characteristic than ceramics.

20 In using transparent piezoelectric ceramic or polymeric piezoelectric film as the transparent piezoelectric material 5, at first, transparent conductive thin film such as ITO etc. is formed thereon by vacuum deposition or sputtering, and then the transparent electrode pattern 4 is formed by photo etching etc.

B. Second Embodiment

25 FIG.4 is a broken perspective view showing the detailed composition of a piezoelectric diaphragm in a second preferred embodiment according to the invention. In FIG.4, like parts are indicated using like numerals in FIGS.2 and 3, and their explanations are omitted herein.

30 In the second embodiment shown in FIG.4, a transparent electrode pattern 24 is sandwiched between polymeric piezoelectric film 22 and polymeric piezoelectric film 23, thereby a bimorph-type

piezoelectric diaphragm is configured.

In this embodiment, at first, the transparent electrode pattern 24 is formed on the polymeric piezoelectric film 22, and then, on the back side, the polymeric piezoelectric film 23 is attached.

5 Thereby, a bimorph piezoelectric diaphragm can be formed easily.

On the transparent pattern electrode 24, a cutout 24a is formed by photo etching etc. Also, on corresponding part of the polymeric piezoelectric film 23, a cutout 23a is formed.

10 By pasting these polymeric piezoelectric films 22 and 23 together, the two films is contacted.

By pasting this bimorph piezoelectric film onto the diaphragm holding frame 12, the electric contact 15 is contacted with the polymeric piezoelectric film 22 and the electric contact 16 is contacted with the transparent electrode pattern 24 through the 15 output 23a and the output 24a.

In this embodiment, the electric contact 15 is an electrode terminal for the polymeric piezoelectric films 22, 23, and the electric contact 16 is an electrode terminal for the transparent electrode pattern 24.

20 As described above, in this embodiment, the piezoelectric diaphragm is composed of the polymeric piezoelectric films and the transparent electrode. Thus, the electrode is connected to the piezoelectric film opposite to the electrode terminal. Therefore, a bimorph piezoelectric diaphragm and electrode can be produced in 25 large quantities.

Meanwhile, in the second embodiment, at first, transparent conductive film such as ITO etc. is formed on the polymeric piezoelectric film 22 by vacuum deposition or sputtering. Then, the transparent electrode pattern 24 is formed by photo etching.

30 Then, the polymeric piezoelectric film 23 is pasted onto the

transparent-electrode side of the polymeric piezoelectric film 22, thereby the bimorph-type piezoelectric diaphragm is formed.

Further, by adhering this piezoelectric diaphragm to the LCD holding mold 9 (see FIG.2), a bimorph-type piezoelectric transparent
5 speaker is formed.

When the piezoelectric transparent speaker thus formed is installed between the LCD transparent member 2 and the LCD body 10, it operates as a speaker.

FIG.5 is an illustration showing an application of the invention,
10 and is a broken perspective view showing the installation.

In the application in FIG.5, the piezoelectric transparent speaker unit 26 described above is installed on the front side of a CRT display 25, which is used as a television set etc. Further, for the purpose of protecting the piezoelectric diaphragm, a
15 protective screen 27 that is of a transparent material is installed on the front side of the piezoelectric transparent speaker.

By thus installing the piezoelectric transparent speaker on the front side of a large-size display device such as a Braun tube or CRT (cathode-ray tube) display, the image can correspond to the sound
20 source.

Other than this, this invention can be applied to the front side of any display device such as a plasma display, projector-type display etc.

25 Advantages of the Invention:

According to the invention, the transparent speaker is composed of the transparent piezoelectric diaphragm formed with a transparent piezoelectric material and a transparent electrode pattern by using vacuum etching or photo etching, and the frame to hold the fringe
30 of this piezoelectric diaphragm. Also, such transparent

piezoelectric diaphragm can be attached onto the front side of a LCD plate. Thereby, it can function as a speaker without blocking the displaying of LCD. Especially in portable communication terminals, the installation onto the space for LCD can prevent the installation area for speaker from increasing. Therefore, the portable communication terminals can be miniaturized and lightened by that much. Further, with a large area of diaphragm, high electrical-acoustical conversion efficiency and a high productivity, a piezoelectric diaphragm and a piezoelectric speaker can be provided.

10 In detail, the invention has advantages below.

By installing the speaker between the LCD body and the display screen, the installation area for speaker can be prevented from increasing. Further, the number of components for speaker can be reduced by using some components for LCD commonly. Thus, with a built-in LCD, a speaker for portable device can be miniaturized and lightened.

15 Also, since the display area of LCD is used commonly as the area of diaphragm, the area of diaphragm can be larger than that in the conventional speaker installed into small-size portable devices, and the electrical-acoustical conversion efficiency can be therefore enhanced. Further, since it is of piezoelectric type, its consumed power can be lowered comparing with the conventional dynamic-type speaker.

20 Since the image of LCD corresponds to the sound source of transparent piezoelectric speaker, it can lend natural communication and vision to a monitor for TV phone, TV set or VTR.

25 When using polymeric piezoelectric film, the transparent electrode pattern with the piezoelectric films on both sides can be mass-produced by vacuum deposition, photo etching. Thus, the bimorph piezoelectric diaphragm can be manufactured at a low cost.

Although the invention has been described with respect to specific embodiment for complete and clear disclosure, the appended claims are not to be thus limited but are to be construed as embodying all modification and alternative constructions that may be occurred to one skilled in the art which fairly fall within the basic teaching here is set forth.

Each feature disclosed in this specification (which term includes the claims) and/or shown in the drawings may be incorporated in the invention independently of other disclosed and/or illustrated features.

Statements in this specification of the "objects of the invention" or to its advantages relate to preferred embodiments of the invention, but not necessarily to all embodiments of the invention falling within the claims.

The description of the invention with reference to the drawings is by way of example only.

The text of the abstract filed herewith is repeated here as part of the specification.

Disclosed in a piezoelectric diaphragm with a transparent piezoelectric member and a transparent electrode. Also disclosed is a portable electronic device that has a display means to display an image and a piezoelectric speaker having a transparent piezoelectric member and a transparent electrode. In this portable electronic device, the piezoelectric speaker is disposed in front of the display means.

What is claimed is:

1 1. A piezoelectric diaphragm, comprising:
2 a transparent piezoelectric member and a transparent
3 electrode.

1 2. A piezoelectric diaphragm, comprising:
2 a first transparent piezoelectric film;
3 a transparent electrode; and
4 a second transparent piezoelectric film;
5 wherein said piezoelectric diaphragm has a lamination
6 structure in which said first transparent piezoelectric film, said
7 transparent electrode and said second transparent piezoelectric
8 film are laminated.

1 3. A piezoelectric speaker, comprising:
2 a piezoelectric diaphragm which is composed of a transparent
3 piezoelectric member and a transparent electrode;
4 a first frame which holds the fringe of said piezoelectric
5 diaphragm on the side of transparent electrode; and
6 a second frame which holds the fringe of said piezoelectric
7 diaphragm on the side of transparent piezoelectric member;
8 wherein said first and second frames are installed so that an
9 image to be displayed by a display means is seen through transparent
10 parts inside said first and second frames.

1 4. A piezoelectric speaker, according to claim 3, wherein:
2 said transparent piezoelectric member and said transparent

3 electrode composing said piezoelectric diaphragm each are patterned
4 with a transparent pattern; and a terminal disposed on said first
5 frame is provided with a first electrode electrically connected to
6 said transparent electrode and a second electrode electrically
7 connected to the transparent piezoelectric member.

1 5. A piezoelectric speaker, according to claim 4, wherein:
2 said transparent electrode is provided with a cutout
3 corresponding to said second electrode; and
4 said second electrode is electrically connected to said
5 transparent piezoelectric member through said cutout when said first
6 frame is contacted with said piezoelectric diaphragm.

1 6. A piezoelectric speaker, comprising:
2 a piezoelectric diaphragm which has a lamination structure
3 comprising a first transparent piezoelectric film, a transparent
4 electrode and a second transparent piezoelectric film;
5 a first frame which holds the fringe of said piezoelectric
6 diaphragm on the side of said first transparent piezoelectric film
7 of said piezoelectric diaphragm; and
8 a second frame which holds the fringe of said piezoelectric
9 diaphragm on the side of said second transparent piezoelectric film
10 of said piezoelectric diaphragm;
11 wherein said first and second frames are installed so that an
12 image to be displayed by a display means is seen through transparent
13 parts inside said first and second frames.

1 7. A piezoelectric speaker, according to claim 6, wherein:

said first and second transparent piezoelectric films composing said piezoelectric diaphragm each are patterned with a transparent pattern; and a terminal disposed on said
5 first frame is provided with a first electrode electrically connected to said transparent electrode and a second electrode electronically connected to the transparent piezoelectric member.

8. A piezoelectric speaker, according to claim 7,
10 wherein:

said first transparent piezoelectric film is provided with a first cutout corresponding to the position of said second electrode;

said transparent electrode is provided with a second
15 cutout corresponding to said second electrode; and

said second electrode is electrically connected to said transparent piezoelectric member through said first and second cutouts when said first frame is contacted with said piezoelectric diaphragm.

20 9. A portable electronic device, comprising:

a display means to display an image; and

a piezoelectric speaker composed of a transparent piezoelectric member and a transparent electrode;

wherein said piezoelectric speaker is disposed in
25 front of said display means.

10. A piezoelectric diaphragm or speaker, or a portable electronic device substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.



14 —

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Claims searched: 1 to 9

Examiner: Peter Easterfield
Date of search: 2 February 2000

Patents Act 1977
Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:
UK Cl (Ed.R): H4J (JCE)
Int Cl (Ed.7): H04R (17/00), B06B(1/06)
Other: ONLINE: EPODOC, WPI, JAPIO

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
X	GB 2052919 A (HITACHI) see abstract	1, 9
X	EP 0599250 A2 (CANON) see col 7 line 16-30	1, 9
X	US 5400414 A (ELECTRONIC WERKE) see abstract	1, 9
X	US 5115472 A (KYUNG PARK) see abstract	1, 9

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.